

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please replace all the drawing sheets with the attached Replacement Sheets.

REMARKS

STATUS SUMMARY

Claims 1-72 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-26, 39-43 and 50-57 are allowed. Claims 27, 28, 29, 32, 35 44, 45, 58, 59, 63, 65, 66 and 70 are rejected. Claims 30, 31, 33, 34, 36-38, 46-49, 60-62, 64, 67-69, 71 and 72 are objected to. In this paper, Applicant has amended claims 27, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37, 44, 47, 48, 59, 61 and 65; canceled claims 30, 33, 36, 46, 58, 60 and 66-68 without prejudice; and added new claims 73-118. Applicant has considered the above-identified Office Action and cited references, and replies as set forth below.

SPECIFICATION

Paragraphs 11, 78, 90, 102, 110, 124 and 132 have been amended to correct minor typographical or grammatical errors, or to correct an incorrect element number. We do not believe that any new matter has been added.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 27, 28, 44 and 45

Claims 27, 28, 44 and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Shigeta et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,522,895). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

However, to expedite examination, Applicant has amended independent claim 27 by incorporating the language of claim 30. In view of this amendment, Applicant has canceled claim 30 and changed the dependency of claim 31. In the above-referenced Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 28 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including

all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 27 as amended and claim 28 at least by way of dependency are allowable at this time, and respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

In addition, to expedite examination, Applicant has amended independent claim 44 by incorporating the language of claim 46. In view of this amendment, Applicant has canceled claim 46 and changed the dependency of claim 47. In the above-referenced Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 46 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 44 as amended and claim 45 at least by way of dependency are allowable at this time, and respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Claim 32

Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Mardilovich et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,070,879). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

However, to expedite examination, Applicant has amended independent claim 32 by incorporating the language of claim 33. In view of this amendment, Applicant has canceled claim 33 and changed the dependency of claim 34. In the above-referenced Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 33 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 32 as amended is allowable at this time, and respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Claim 35

Claim 35 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Brokman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,185,218). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

However, to expedite examination, Applicant has amended independent claim 35 by incorporating the language of claim 36. In view of this amendment, Applicant has canceled claim 36 and changed the dependency of claim 37. In the above-referenced Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 36 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 35 as amended is allowable at this time, and respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Claim 58

Claim 58 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Margiott (U.S. Patent No. 6,365,291). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. However, to expedite examination, Applicant has canceled independent claim 58.

Claims 59 and 63

Claims 59 and 63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tygat et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,783,381). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

However, to expedite examination, Applicant has amended independent claim 59 by incorporating the language of claim 60. In view of this amendment, Applicant has canceled claim 60 and changed the dependency of claim 61. In the above-referenced Office Action, the

Examiner indicated that claim 60 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 59 as amended and claim 63 at least by way of dependency are allowable at this time, and respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Claims 65 and 66

Claims 65 and 66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Roberts et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,329,089). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

However, to expedite examination, Applicant has amended independent claim 65 by incorporating the language of claims 66 and 67. In view of this amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 66 and 67 as well as claim 68. In the above-referenced Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 67 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 65 as amended is allowable at this time, and respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 29

Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,322,915 to Collins et al. (hereinafter "Collins et al."). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Claim 29 depends from independent 27, which is allowable for the reasons set forth

above. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

Claim 70

Claim 70 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roberts et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,023,150 to Takabayashi (hereinafter "Takabayashi"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Claim 70 depends from independent claim 65, which is allowable for the reasons set forth above. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

OBJECTED TO CLAIMS, AND NEW CLAIMS

Claims 30, 31, 33, 34, 36-38, 46-49, 60-62, 64, 67-69, 71 and 72 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicant has made the following amendments and additions to the claims, all of which are fully supported by the application as originally filed and therefore do not constitute new matter.

Claim 30 has been canceled and combined with independent claim 27, as discussed above.

Claim 33 has been canceled and combined with independent claim 32, as discussed above.

Claim 36 has been canceled and combined with independent claim 35, as discussed above.

New independent claim 73 combines independent claim 35 and claim 38 (objected to).

New claims 74 and 75 correspond to claims 36 and 37.

Claim 46 has been canceled and combined with independent claim 44, as discussed above.

New independent claim 76 combines independent claim 44 and claim 49 (objected to).

New claims 77-80 correspond to claims 45-48, respectively.

Claim 60 has been canceled and combined with independent claim 59, as discussed above.

New independent claim 81 combines independent claim 59 and claim 62 (objected to).

New claims 82-85 correspond to claims 60, 61, 63 and 64, respectively.

New independent claim 86 combines independent claim 59 and claim 64 (objected to).

New claims 87-90 correspond to claims 60-63, respectively.

Claim 67 has been canceled and combined with claim 66 and independent claim 65, as discussed above.

New independent claim 91 combines independent claim 65 and claim 68 (objected to).

New claims 92-97 correspond to claims 66, 67 and 69-72, respectively.

New independent claim 98 combines independent claim 65 and claim 69 (objected to).

New claims 99-104 correspond to claims 66-68 and 70-72, respectively.

New independent claim 105 combines independent claim 65 and claim 71 (objected to).

New claims 106-111 correspond to claims 66-70 and 72, respectively.

New independent claim 112 combines independent claim 65 and claim 72 (objected to).

New claims 113-118 correspond to claims 66-71, respectively.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 73-118 are allowable at this time.

ALLOWED CLAIMS

Applicant acknowledges that claims 1-26, 39-43 and 50-57 stand allowed.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance, and an early notice to such effect is earnestly solicited.

If any small matter should remain outstanding after the Patent Examiner has had an opportunity to review the above Remarks, the Patent Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned patent attorney in order to resolve these matters and avoid the issuance of another Office Action.

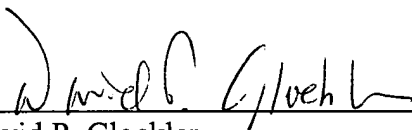
Although it is believed that the appropriate fees are submitted with this transmittal, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-2542.

Respectfully submitted,

THE ECLIPSE GROUP LLP

Date: May 8, 2008

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